



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

10 JUN 2009

Nick Chevance
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4226

Dear Mr. Chevance:

Re: Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Effigy Mound National Monument Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The DEIS was assigned the CEQ number 20090145.

Based on our overall review and the level of our comments, the EPA has rated the DEIS for this project Lack of Objections.

EPA would like to comment on one aspect of the plan. In the introduction, it is explained that this management plan is intended to provide guidance for the next 15 to 20 years. Further, "Major or especially costly actions could be implemented 10 or more years into the future." (p. 4). EPA considers the GMP a reasonable plan, however, it is important to recognize that as time passes, changes to the environment nearby any project may make information or planning assumptions obsolete. If major actions are implemented 10 or more years in the future in the Effigy Mounds Park, NEPA analysis may need to be re-visited.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments regarding this project. If you have any questions, you may contact the NEPA team leader, Joe Cothorn, at 913-551-7656, or via email at cothorn.joe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Smith
NEPA Reviewer
Environmental Services Division